

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. LB 24 has come into this argument. Knowing that you won't, but I respectfully request that you read LB 24. It says...this law now states "no agency in this state shall purchase, lease or acquire real estate, etc., without permission of the Legislature". The Barnett bill, LB 24, would strike out "no" and would state this way--"any agency of this state may purchase". Here is an example where LB 24 would have been extremely bad law. The person who had a complaint, regarding this purchase, has been publicly heard and everybody in this Legislature now understands what his complaint is. The Legislature in Nebraska shall answer this question of whether this should go for a hiking trail, or whether it should not. If LB 24 passed that landowner wouldn't have even known that it had happened, and neither would have anybody else. The Game and Parks Commission would have just bought it. Also, LB 24 doesn't say the Game and Parks Commission, it says any agency in this state could buy land without permission. LB 24 is lousy law. LR 54 is an excellent resolution and we should pass it.

SENATOR MARVEL: Senator Maresh, do you wish to be recognized?

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. This has been discussed very thoroughly. In 1971 I sponsored LB 661 which gave the Legislature the power to review any acquisition by state agencies. Senator Barnett's bill would have tried to avoid this. We would have no way to look at what the state agencies are doing. I believe that the adjoining landowners should have first chance to buy the land, but in this case it's for the public good for the Game and Parks Commission to acquire this little strip of land. I'm sure the rest of the landowners adjoining this right of way, farther down the line south of this strip, will have the chance to buy the adjoining...I mean to add this to their farms. I'm sure that there will probably be more attempts to do away with this law, but I feel that we've given this a good hearing. This is the first time this law was used since it was enacted in 1971. I'm sure it will work in the future if we just leave it on the books. I support LR 54.

SENATOR MARVEL: Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask Senator Barnett a question.

SENATOR MARVEL: Senator Barnett, do you yield?

SENATOR BARNETT: I'll sure try to.

SENATOR KREMER: Senator Barnett, I'm not sure I understood you correctly. Here is the way I understood you, LB 24 would have provided that the farmer would get the first chance....

SENATOR BARNETT: No.

SENATOR KREMER: You did not say that.

SENATOR BARNETT: No, I did not say that.